

Serial No.: 10/692,947  
Atty. Docket No.: D5380

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application as amended is requested. Claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b). Claims 3-5 and 7-9 were rejected as obvious under 35 USC 103(a). Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to overcome the prior art. The rejection of claim 6 as anticipated is traversed. Claims 1-11 remain active.

The anticipation rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 11 was based on Heard, US-Pat 6,899,374. The Heard '374 patent, teaches a rear quarter panel 2 for a motor vehicle which is adapted to slide back and forth on tracks parallel to the motor vehicle's chassis. The quarter panel extends, when in its forward most position, from the rear of the vehicle to the trailing edge of the front door, and upwardly from a lower panel to the vehicle roof. With the quarter panel slid toward the back of the vehicle access is obtained to the rear seat located in the vehicle cab and thus the panel doubles as a hidden door, allowing manufacture of a four door car that has the appearance of a two door coupe. While Heard presents extensive discussion of features melding his system into the exterior of the vehicle, less discussion appears relating to the interior modifications his system would appear to require. The sliding door, because it takes in the entire rear quarter panel, must accommodate intrusion of the wheel well (See Fig. 2), but how this is done does not appear to be spelled out.

Unlike the present invention, the sliding door system of Heard does not move to expose a substantial section of a vehicle chassis. Thus the reference cannot anticipate the independent claims, as amended. Claims 1 and 11, as amended, require a sliding motion of the skirt panel which exposes "a section of the motor vehicle chassis" (wording of claim 1). Claim 6 has a similar structural limitation. In addition, claim 1 requires that movement of the skirt panel be between the front and rear wheels, thus wheel well intrusion does not have to be taken into account.

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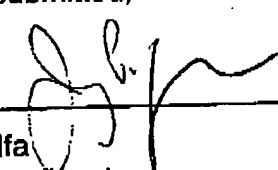
**CONCLUSION**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is not considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Applicant believes the Claims as amended are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable action by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,


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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR §1.8**

I hereby certify that this **AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111** is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on or before 11/14/05  
(571) 273-8300.

Date: 11/14/05

  
Cathi Majewski